whether NTPC has decided to form a joint venture with M/s Bharat Forge for equipment manufacturing;

if so, the details of the proposal approved by NTPC, including stake holding, product profile and quantum of investment, etc.;

whether NTPC has bagged any order for UMPP projects;

if so, the details thereof;

whether NTPC's entry in capital goods industry is to shift from its core area of activity in power generation; and

if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC has signed en MoU with M/s Bharat Forge Limited on 8/2/2008 to promote a Joint Venture (JV) Company.

The Company is proposed to be set up with equity participation from NTPC and Bharat Forge Limited in the ratio 49.51 respectively. The proposed authorized capital of the company is Rs. 10 lakhs. However, the investment in future will depend upon the techno-commercial viability of the proposal.

The aim of the JV company is to establish a facility, subject to techno-commercial viability, to initially take up manufacture of castings, forgings, fittings and high pressure pipings required for power and other industries, Balance of Plant (BoP) equipment for the power sector etc., including tie ups with strategic partners. The JV company may eventually also explore opportunities related to manufacturing of power equipment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. NTPC has not bagged any order for Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) till date.

(e) and (0 No, Sir. NTPC does not plan to shift from its core area of activity in power generation. However, in order to strengthen its competive advantage in Power Generation Business, NTPC plans to strategically diversify its portfolio to emerge as an integrated power major and accordingly continuously explores various business opportunities. At present it does not have the necessary expertise to undertake power equipment manufacturing activities on its own. Therefore, NTPC plans to partner with suitable strategic partners who can bring the expertise in manufacturing which in combination with NTPC's strength in Planning, Engineering, Project Management and Operational expertise can be used to develop a viable equipment manufacturing facility apart from providing services.

Power supply to Chhattisgarh

†426. SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether Chhattisgarh had alleged the Central Government for partiality in regard to power distribution;

whether the State has fulfilled its requirement on its own capacity and there is 24 hour power supply in the State; and

what is Centres contribution in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRISUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Government of Chhattisgarh has been requesting for higher allocation from Central Sector Stations on various grounds.

(b) The requirement of power in a State is met by its own generation, allocation from Central Generating Stations and import of power from other states. During the period April, 2007 to January, 2008, the power supply position of Chhattisgarh was as under:

	Energy (MU)	Peak Demand (MW)
Requirement	11,547	2,266
Availability	10,974	2,038
Shortage	573	228
%	5%	10.1%

The energy Shortage in the Western Region in the same period was 14.7% and the Peak Shortage was 23.3%. Chhattisgarh State is a Constituent of the Western Region.

There were power cuts/restrictions on HT industries in Chhattisgarh during January 2008 with a average demand cut of 50 MW for 24 hrs. for 1 day in the week and energy cut of 0.07 MU/day on HT industries from 1700 hrs. to 2100 hrs. The supply to agricultural sector was 24 hrs per day on three phase during January '08.

(c) Presently, Chhattisgarh has been allocated 363 MW firm share and 37 MW unallocated power from the Central Generating Stations of the Western Region, along with an assistance of 21 MW from the NTPC stations in the Eastern Region. During the period April, 2007 to January, 2008, energy to the tune of 2480 MUs was scheduled to the State of Chhattisgarh from the Central Generating Stations. Unit 4 (500 MW) of Sipat Thermal Power Station Stage-II of NTPC in Chhattisgarh had been-awaiting regular operation of the Unit since a few months on account of lack of availability of water from the host State. The firm allocation of Chhattisgarh State from thsi Unit is 79 MW. This has deprived the State and the Western Region from the utilization of generateable power at a time when the region is facing severe power shortage.

Schemes for future power requirements

† SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that energy needs in the country is projected to increase fivefold during the next 20—25 years;

if so, the details thereof; and

the details of the schemes formulated or proposed to be formulated to meet the energy needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on the Integrated Energy Policy brought out by Planning Commission in August, 2006 project energy requirement upto 2031-32 for GDP growth rates at 8% and 9%. The projections are given below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.